

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 301020Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2067

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10472

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR EAID JA VN

SUBJ: JAPAN-DRV NEGOTIATION: EMBASSIES MAY OPEN IN AUGUST

REF: TOKYO 10308

SUMMARY: IN EFFORT TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS, JAPAN HAS OFFERED HANOI 13 BILLION YEN WITH AN ENLARGED FIRST OF TWO TRANCHES TO BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY. HANOI'S ANSWER IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK. IF FAVORABLE, AS FONOFF EXPECTS, EMBASSIES COULD BE OPENED IN HANOI AND TOKYO BY MID-AUGUST. SENIOR FONOFF ENVOY MAY VISIT HANOI TO SIGN FORMAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST SE ASIA DIVDIR HANABUSA CALLED IN EMBOFF TO FONOFF TO INFORM USG OF LATEST GOJ OFFER IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRV MADE JULY 28 IN VIENTIANE. JAPANESE OFFERED COMPROMISE
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FIGURE OF 13 BILLION YEN IN NON-REIMBURSEABLE AID TO DRV (HANOI SOUGHT 14.5 BILLION AND GOJ OFFERED 12 BILLION PREVIOUSLY). FINANCE MINISTRY HAS AGREED TO GO TO 13.5 BILLION YEN IF NECESSARY, WHICH IS FIGURE HANABUSA HAS

INCICATIONS HANOI WILL SETTLE FOR BUT HE HOPES GOJ'S OFFER OF LARGE SUM IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE WILL INDUCE HANOI TO ACCEPT THE 13 BILLION YEN NOW OFFERED OR PERHAPS SETTLE FOR 13.25 BILLION YEN. GOJ WOULD PROVIDE 8.5 BILLION YEN FROM CURRENT FY BUDGET AND TACITLY AGREE TO PROVIDE REMAINDER IN NEXT FY. SINCE FUNDS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ALLOCATED BY DIET, FORMAL AGREEMENT ON SECOND TRANCHE WOULD BE CONCLUDED SUBSEQUENTLY. AS LONG AS FUNDS COME FROM NEXT FY BUDGET, HANABUSA SAID AGREEMENT COULD BE "TACIT" AND NOT A "SUECRET AGREEMENT". DRV NEGOTIATORS WERE "SURPRISED" BY OFFER AND REFERRED DECISION TO HANOI. ANSWER IS EXPECTED PERHAPS LATE THIS WEEK.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL OTHER MINOR PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED, HANABUSA EXPECTS HANOI TO ACCEPT JAPAN'S OFFER. ASSUMING ACCEPTANCE, NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENTIANE WILL TERMINATE NEXT WEEK OR FOLLOWING WEEK WITH INITIATING OF "RECORD OF UNDERSTANDING". JAPAN WOULD OPEN ITS EMBASSY IN HANOI BY MID-AUGUST. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. HANOI WANTS AID AGREEMENT SIGNED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH OPENING OF JAPAN'S EMBASSY BUT HANABUSA SAID THE LONGER THE INTERIM BETWEEN OPENING THE EMBASSY AND SIGNING AGREEMENT THE BETTER. COMPROMISE IS EXPECTED. GOJ HAD INTENDED TO LET FUTURE CHARGE YOKIO IMAGAWA (FIRST SECY IN VIENTIANE) SIGN THE AGREEMENT BUT HANOI IS PRESSING FOR A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL TO SIGN AND ASKED THAT AN ECONOMIC MISSION VISIT HANOI FOR CEREMONY. HANABUSA SAID AT MOMENT HE THINKS AMBASSADOR SAGANUMA FROM VIENTIANE WILL TO GO TO HANOI TO SIGN BUT HE ADMITTED THAT CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO SENDING A HIGH-LEVEL EMISSARY FROM TOKYO, PERHAPS DEP FONMIN ARITA TO FORMALLY CONCLUDE THE AID AGREEMENT.

3. HAABUSA BELIEVES HANOI PLANS TO USE OCCASION OF SIGNING FOR VARIETY OF PURPOSES INCLUDING: A) TO PRESSURE MOSCOW AND PEKING FOR MORE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE; B) TO SIMULTANEOUSLY STRIKE INDEPENDENT POSTURE VIS-A-VIS CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIETS AND CHINESE; C) TO ENCOURAGE FRANCE TO EXTEND GENEROUS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE; D) TO ENCOURAGE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS GENERALLY TO PROVIDE AID TO VN.

4. JAPAN'S EMBASSY WILL BE STAFFED BY TWO OFFICERS IN ADDITION TO IMAGAWA, HIROKAWA FROM VIENTIANE EMBASSY AND ONE SPECIALIST FROM FONOFF (PROBABLY INOUYE). EMBASSY WILL LIVE AND WORK IN THONG NHAT HOTEL BUT UPON COMPLETION OF CUBAN-FUNDED HOTEL IN SEPTEMBER, EMBASSY MAY MOVE THERE. EARLIER, GOJ WAS IN NO HURRY TO SEND AN AMBASSAODR BUT FOLLOWING HANOI'S VICTORY AND INCREASED POWER IN INDOCHINA, FONOFF IS NOW INCLINED TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR AS SOON AS ACCOMMODATIONS CAN BE

OBTAINED. HANABUSA COMMENTED THAT GOJ APPRECIATES HANOI'S NEW POSITION BUT IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES STILL ARE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO JAPAN THAN TIES WITH DRV.

5. NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE INDICATED THEY PLAN TO OPEN THEIR EMBASSY IN TOKYO AT SAME TIME AS JAPANESE EMBASSY OPENS IN HANOI. HANABUSA EXPECTS NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL PROBABLY USE FORMER GVN EMBASSY. AT FIRST, HOWEVER, HANABUSA SPECULATED THEY MIGHT MOVE INTO THE "RED HOTEL", AS NEW OTANI IS REFERRED TO IN FONOFF BECAUSE COMMUNISTS, INCLUDING CHINESE, HAVE REGULARLY CAMPED THERE BEFORE MOVING TO PERMANENT QUARTERS. NORTH VIETNAMESE CHARGE IS EXPECTED TO BE MINISTER GIAP FROM DRV EMBASSY VIENTIANE, DEPUTY IN NEGOTIATIONS. HANABUSA DESCRIBED HIM AS AN AMIABLE, PEASANT-LIKE FELLOW. HAABUSA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION US EMBASSY VIENTIANE HAD DISCLOSED TO GOJ THAT GIAP WOULD PROBABLY BE CHARGE.

6. EMBOFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION ONCE AGAIN TO HANABUSA FOR HIS FAITHFUL RECORD OF KEEPING USG INFORMED ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH HANOI.
SHOESMIGH

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